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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
1 November 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Navy Review
Completed

Situation Report Number 97
(as of 0630 EST)

State Dept review
completed

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

(All times cited in military paragraphs are
Cairo/Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

1. No reports of clashes were noted over night
and calm prevailed on both fronts this morning.

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2. The Egyptians have complained to the UN
emergency force that a company-size Israeli paratroop
force was dropped yesterday morning in the Jabal Ataqah--
the hills southwest of Suez City--an area not previously
occupied by the Israelis. No other details are avail-
able on this alleged incident.

PRISONERS OF WAR

3. Syria's Deputy Foreign Minister announced
at a press conference yesterday that Damascus was

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prepared to submit a list of Israeli POWs in Syria to the International Red Cross and allow Red Cross officials to visit them if Israel would:

- officially state that it will fully comply with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions;
- return the bodies of Syrians killed in the war and allow the return to their homes of Syrian villagers displaced during the fighting.

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ISRAEL

6. Mrs. Meir's Labor Alignment was able to carry the day in a Knesset debate earlier this week over the POW issue largely because of General Dayan's announcement of Egypt's readiness to cooperate with the International Red Cross. In two separate votes, the Israeli

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parliament rejected a call by opposition leaders for further plenary debate and approved a proposal for turning the POW problem over to committee review.

7. Despite this success, the Labor party will face rough treatment in the weeks ahead as opposition leaders sharpen their attacks on the government's handling of pre-war intelligence and military preparedness, the decision to allow the Egyptian Third Army to be resupplied, and its capitulation to alleged US pressures. The US Embassy in Tel Aviv believes opposition elements will press their temporary advantage over the Labor party--which is becoming increasingly defensive as it searches for visible political achievements.

8. US officials believe there has been no basic shift in public opinion in support of the government's willingness to enter into negotiations with the Arabs, but the mood throughout Israel is one of apprehension and questioning particularly in regard to US intentions. On the one hand, the Israelis are deeply grateful for the massive US aid during the critical stage of the war, but their feelings are confused by a somewhat fearful recognition that their country, in many respects, almost totally dependent on the US. Many Israelis are also coming to doubt their long-standing belief that US aid to Israel is a key to Washington's global and regional interests. The question on most Israelis' minds is to what extent will Israel be able to determine its own future in the days ahead.

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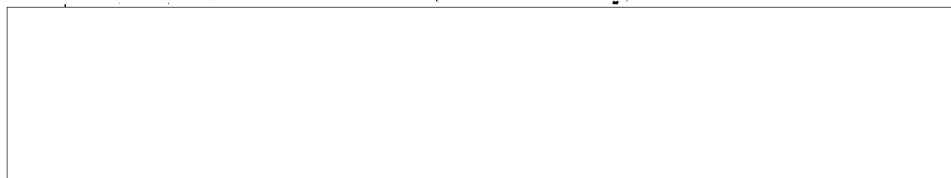
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18. No Soviet naval combatants have entered the Mediterranean since yesterday morning. The bulk of the Soviet combatant force--at least eleven ships--remains concentrated south of Crete in the vicinity of the US aircraft carriers Independence, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy.

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KENYA-ISRAEL

25. Citing Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands, Kenya today became the 17th African state to sever diplomatic relations with Israel since the start of the war on 6 October. Twenty-five African states have now broken diplomatic relations with Israel since March 1972.

CHINA

26. Chinese Premier Chou En-lai, speaking at a banquet yesterday for visiting Australian Prime Minister Whitlam, charged that Washington and Moscow are trying

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to impose on the Arabs a "concocted" solution to the Middle East war. According to a press service report, Chou asserted that the effort was doomed to eventual failure, even if it may appear to succeed for a time. The essence of the Middle East issue, he said, is the superpowers' struggle for hegemony there.

27. The New China News Agency (NCNA) yesterday also attacked the Soviets for allowing Jewish emigrants to leave the Soviet Union and secondarily Washington for allegedly fundint their resettlement in Israel. Citing US newspaper reports, NCNA referred to the unabated high--and even increased--level of Soviet emigrants to Israel as a "stab in the back of the Arab people," while Moscow simultaneously professes "consistent support" for the Arab cause. Moscow's action, NCNA alleged, was motivated by a desire to curry favor with Washington and to obtain Congressional approval for most-favored nation trade status for the Soviet Union.

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